



THE
AMERICAN
CONSERVATIVE
UNION

**Letter to Members of the United States Senate
on Iraqi Supporters of the United States**

September 6, 2007

Dear Senator:

We are writing to you today to express our support for legislation that would allow Iraqi citizens to come to the United States as refugees if they can prove that they are in imminent danger of being killed because they have worked with our forces.

Regardless of how one feels about the war in Iraq, we believe it is vitally important that that we as a nation provide a resettlement opportunity for those Iraqis who have risked their lives and placed themselves in danger by assisting the coalition forces.

This is not and cannot be allowed to become a partisan issue. Our Ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker, recently wrote a memo home arguing that the US is losing the ability to recruit talented Iraqis to work with us because of the real possibility that once they join us and put their lives at risk, they will be abandoned to the tender mercies of our enemies and theirs for their trouble. As a result, many Iraqis who might otherwise come out and join us in our effort to rid their country of terrorists are reluctant to do so.

Their number includes the thousands of Iraqis who have worked with our forces as interpreters and who as a result have already been branded by extremists within Iraq as enemies who must be killed to discourage others from working with us. We owe those who work with and for us a debt both of gratitude and loyalty and it is imperative that they and those who we hope will join us know that we do not forget our friends.

Given the situation in which these friends of the United States find themselves, we believe Congress should pass and the executive branch should implement legislation that would allow those who find themselves in this situation and who can prove that their lives are, in fact, in danger because of their assistance to us to come here.

This would not open the gates to a flood of Iraqis fleeing the uncertainty and general danger within which they live today, but would allow them to escape an intolerable situation in which they as individuals find themselves because they came to our aid when we needed them.

Legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate to address this issue. H.R. 2265, introduced by Congressmen Earl Blumenauer and Christopher Shays in the House, and S. 1651 introduced by Senators Edward Kennedy and Gordon Smith in the Senate that would provide emergency resettlement options for these Iraqi friends of the United States.

This legislation should be passed with the support of leaders of both parties.

Sincerely,

David A. Keene

Chairman, The American Conservative Union

The Honorable Edwin Meese, III

Former Attorney General and Member of the Baker/Hamilton Commission

Grover Norquist

President, Americans for Tax Reform

Member, Board of Directors, The American Conservative Union

Clifford D. May

President, Foundation for the Defense of Democracies

Michael R. Long

Chairman, New York State Conservative Party

Member, Board of Directors, The American Conservative Union

Alfred S. Regnery

Publisher, The American Spectator

Doug Bandow

Vice President for Policy, Citizen Outreach

Michael Ostrolenk

President, American Conservative Defense Alliance

Bruce Chapman

President, Discovery Institute

Mary Matalin

Peter Hannaford